



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Statement on Human Dimension Activities of OSCE Missions and Field Operations**

As delivered by Ambassador Larry Napper, Head of Delegation,  
to the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting, Warsaw  
October 11, 2004

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.

Twenty-seven years ago, the delegates in Helsinki hit upon a fundamental truth when they saw that respect for fundamental freedoms and human rights promotes stability and security in the OSCE region. The CSCE process began to change significantly when, in 1992, the first field missions were opened. Every subsequent mission has had a unique mandate tailored to meet the specific needs of the host country. Nevertheless, they all seek to provide a concrete presence that can work on a day-to-day basis to put into practice many of the things we have been discussing here at this meeting, as well as issues within the economic and the political-military dimensions. This is why OSCE Field Missions in Eastern and Southeastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia focus on these activities -- and why the OSCE's field missions deserve full support from all participating States.

In my own experience as Ambassador to Latvia from 1995-1998 and Kazakhstan from 2001-2004, I saw on a daily basis the impressive and productive work that the field missions accomplish. This is work that helps improve legislation, judicial practice, policing, democracy, and indeed quality of life. The field presence also helps by bringing citizens and civil society into the democratic process and ensuring attention to human rights.

The United States values the work of the field missions and believes that these missions are one of the most important aspects of the OSCE's work. Field missions provide vital support to civil societies and governments alike in the promotion of democracy and human rights. They are there to help countries meet their commitments or to address specific situations, and they have achieved significant improvements, including in troubled environments.

In order to function successfully, however, field missions need adequate resources and staunch political backing from OSCE leaders and participating States. When participating States fail to fully support field missions, the organization and the host country's citizens suffer.

For this reason, decisions affecting the operations and budgets of field presences should not be taken without full consultations and serious consideration of the implications for the OSCE. Likewise, identifying and recruiting capable heads of mission should be a top priority, and we hope that the OSCE will move quickly to fill vacancies for Heads of Mission in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

The United States commends the work that is being undertaken in all the OSCE field missions and hopes that this work will be allowed to continue into the future.

Thank you, Mr. Moderator.